

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated March 25, 2004. Claims 34-48 are presented for examination. Claims 1-33 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Claims 34-48 have been added. Claims 34, 40, and 45 are in independent form. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

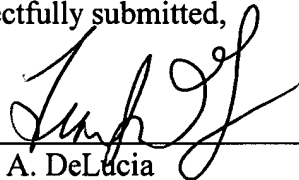
Claim 31 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,986,202 (*Granger*), and Claims 32 and 33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Granger*. Cancellation of these claims renders those rejections moot.

Regarding Claims 1-30, Applicants note with appreciation the allowance of those claims. Nonetheless, those claims have been canceled herein, and former Claims 1-15 have been rewritten as new Claims 34-48 to even further clarify the claimed subject matter, and to provide Applicants with a scope of protection to which they deem themselves entitled. Applicants note that new Claims 34-48 include features that are similar in many respects to those recited in canceled Claims 1-15. Applicants submit that neither *Granger* nor any other reference of record is seen to teach or suggest the subject matter of those claims, and that those claims recite patentable subject matter. Accordingly, their allowance is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Frank A. DeLucia', written over a horizontal line.

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